

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the formaldehyde and/or cyanide contents in technically produced solutions of sarcosine salts, ~~characterized in that the~~, wherein a starting solution is subjected to a thermal treatment in such a way that the starting solution

a1) at an approximately equimolar ratio of formaldehyde and cyanide components of 1:0.9 to 1.1, is adjusted to temperatures between 20 and 120°C,

or

a2) at a non-equimolar ratio of formaldehyde and cyanide components, is heated to temperatures between 120 and 200°C,

and

b) is finally cooled down,

and that the duration of the thermal treatment is 1 to 300 minute(s).

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the duration of the thermal treatment is 40 to 60 minutes.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein in the case a1), the starting solution is adjusted, by addition of calculated amounts of formaldehyde or cyanide, to an approximately equimolar ratio of these two compounds.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the case a1) the calculated amount of formaldehyde and/or cyanide is added in the form of an aqueous solution.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the starting solution in the case a1) is adjusted to temperatures between 60 and 110°C ~~and particularly preferably 90 to 105°C.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the starting solution in the case a2) is heated to  
temperatures of between 140 and 170°C
7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein in the case a2) it is carried out under pressure  
conditions  $\leq 10$  bar.
8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the formaldehyde content is reduced to values  $< 50$   
ppm and the cyanide content is reduced to values  $< 10$  ppm, ~~particularly preferably in a~~  
~~40% by weight sarcosinate solution.~~
9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1,  
~~characterized in that~~ , wherein, before or during the thermal treatment according to a1) or  
a2), educts, such as, e.g., methylamine, and/or byproducts, such as, e.g., ammonia, were  
separated from the starting solution by distillation.
10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9,~~  
~~characterized in that,~~ claim 1, wherein the sarcosinate solution treated according to a1) or  
a2) is used as raw material for the manufacture of creatine.
11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the starting solution in the case a1)  
is adjusted to temperatures between 90 and 105°C.
12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formaldehyde content is  
reduced to values  $< 50$  ppm and the cyanide content is reduced to values  $< 10$  ppm, in a  
40% by weight sarcosinate solution.